

REMARKS

1. Specification Amendment and Status of Application.

Applicant has amended the "Cross-Reference To Related Applications" section and withdraws without prejudice the claim for domestic priority on US Patent Application No. 09/694404. However, for the record, Applicant maintains that this claim for priority through US Patent Application No. 09/348200, which claims priority on US Patent Application No. 09/694404.

As previously asserted, all Applicant has been trying to do is to amend the Cross-Reference To Related Application to correct an obvious typographical error by setting forth the fact that the present patent application is a continuation-in-part of the '404 Application (which it properly is and which was contained in the original patent application) and that the '404 Application is a continuation-in-part of the '200 Application. The "Notice by Deputy Commissioner Kunin dated February 24, 2003" cited by the examiner is inapplicable - it deals with failing to submit a claim of priority, not with submitting a claim of priority with a typographical error.

However, in a good faith effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance, Applicant is withdrawing without prejudice the claim of priority on the '200 Application.

2. Claim Amendments.

The claims have been amended to be allowable based on the comment in Paragraph 12 of the 12 November 2003 Office Action.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and are allowable.

Claim 5 has not been amended as it depends from Claim 4 and is allowable.

Claims 6-8 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and are allowable.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claim 10 was previously presented in allowable form and has not been further amended.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and is allowable.

Claim 12 has not been amended as it depends from Claim 11 and is allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and are allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 have not been amended as they depend from Claims 14 and 15, respectively, and are allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and is allowable.

Claim 18 has not been amended as it depends from Claim 17 and is allowable.

Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the allowable Claim 24. As Claim 24 was deemed allowable if combined with its base claim (Claim 19) and any intervening claims (none), Claim 19 is allowable.

Claims 20 and 21 have not been amended as they depend from Claims 19 and 20, respectively, and are allowable.

Claims 22-24 have been canceled.

Claims 25-30 have not been amended as they depend from Claims 19, 25, 26, 27, 25, and 29, respectively, and are allowable.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the allowable Claim 45. As Claim 45 was deemed to be allowable if combined with its base claim (Claim 31) and any intervening claims (none), Claim 31 is allowable.

Claims 32-44 have not been amended as they depend from Claims 31, 32, 33, 31, 35, 36, 35, 38, 31, 40, 40, 40, and 31, respectively, and are allowable.

Claim 45 has been canceled.

Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 51, including intervening Claims 47, 48, and 49. As Claim 51 was deemed to be allowable if combined with its base claim (Claim 46) and any intervening claims (Claims 47, 48, and 49), Claim 46 is allowable.

Claims 47-49 have been canceled.

Claim 50 has been amended to depend from Claim 46 and is allowable.

Claim 51 has been canceled.

Claim 52 has been amended to depend from Claim 46 and is allowable.

Claims 53 and 54 have been previously presented and depend from Claims 52 and 53, respectively, and are allowable.

Claim 55 has been amended to depend from Claim 46 and is allowable.

Claims 56-59 have been previously presented and depend from Claim 55 and are allowable.

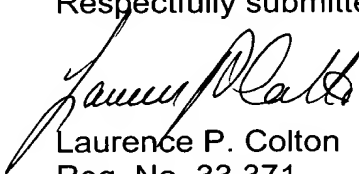
No additional claims have been added. The number of total claims has been reduced from 59 to 49 and the number of independent claims has been reduced from 6 to 4, so no excess claims fee is due.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes it has fully addressed the examiner's concerns and the claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests such action.

If the examiner has any final concerns that can be addressed over the telephone, the examiner is invited to contact the below-signed patent lawyer of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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